

Mr. BENJAMIN rose and addressed the Senate. He said that he had been informed that the Speaker had been elected, and that the House had been organized. He said that he was glad to hear of this, and that he hoped that the House would be able to do its duty. He then sat down.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER stated that the first business in order was the consideration of the motion made by Mr. Oza on Saturday last, to suspend the rules to enable him to move to take up from the Speaker's table Senate bill to provide for the payment of such creditors of the late Republic of Texas as are comprehended in the act of Congress of September 9, 1850.

Mr. CAMPBELL inquired whether, if the rules were suspended, it was the intention of the gentleman from South Carolina to demand the previous question?

Mr. ORR replied that such was not his intention. He desired that an amendment might be submitted to the motion, which would contain therein a provision that the appropriation should be made in the sum of one million and a half of dollars, so that the House might have an opportunity of taking either sum they should prefer.

The question was then taken on the motion to suspend, and it was decided in the negative: Yeas 71, nays 67; two-thirds not voting in favor thereof.

THE GUANO TRADE.

Mr. RIDDLE, from the select committee on the subject of the restrictions on the guano trade, reported a bill to regulate in part the trade between the United States and the Republic of Peru; which was read twice and committed.

[The bill provides that guano shall be admitted duty free when it sells in our markets at \$40 per ton; that a small duty of four per cent. shall be imposed upon the guano when the price thereof is below \$47; a duty of ten per cent. when the price is below \$50; and a duty of sixty per cent. when the price is above \$50; the bill to take effect if the President shall not succeed in negotiating a treaty with Peru for a supply of guano on more liberal terms than at present.]

TRANSPORTATION OF THE MAILS.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Post Office Department, transmitting a copy of the report of the Commissioner of the Post Office, for the year ending the 1st of July, 1853; report of the contracts made for the transportation of the mail within the year; a statement of all such land and water mails as have been established or ordered within that year; a report of additional allowances made to mail contractors and of curtailments of mail service and pay within said year; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

NATIONAL ARMORIES.

Mr. DICKINSON asked consent to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be and he is hereby requested to communicate any information he may have in relation to the application, by either of the commissioners who visited the Springfield armory under the act of 3d March, 1847, for the purchase of the same, and the several armories, or any recommendation by either of said commissioners for the appointment of any other person to that office; also in relation to any application by or in behalf of any of the witnesses from Harper's Ferry or Springfield who testified before the select committee on the subject of the House of Representatives, in relation to the expediency of employing military officers to the supervision of civil works for any office in either of said armories, or any recommendation of either of said witnesses by other persons, or any such office; also in relation to any application by either of the members of said select committee, in their own behalf, or in behalf of any other person or persons, for appointment to any office connected with the construction of the said armories, or any such works which are the subject of inquiry by this committee.

Messrs. VANSANT and CHURCHWELL objected.

Mr. FAULKNER. I hope the objection will be withdrawn. Let us have all the facts in justice to the parties implicated.

Objection was withdrawn, and the resolution was adopted.

TELEGRAPH TO THE PACIFIC.

On motion of Mr. FARLEY, by consent, Senate bill authorizing the construction of a submarine line of telegraph from the Mississippi or Missouri river to the Pacific ocean was taken from the Speaker's table, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Territories.

Mr. WHEELER asked consent to present the memorial of the merchants of New York, New Jersey, and New Jersey, asking remuneration for property recently destroyed at that place by the United States schooner of war Cyane. Objection was made.

CIVIL AND DIPLOMATIC BILL.

Mr. HOUSTON, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported back the amendments of the Senate to the civil and diplomatic bill, with the recommendation that the House concur in some of said amendments, non-concur in others, and concur in some with amendments; and they were referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. H. then moved that the House go into committee for the purpose of considering said amendments.

Mr. DISNEY hoped the gentleman from Alabama would withdraw his motion, that the House might have an opportunity to vote on the amendments of the Senate to the homestead bill.

[Cries of "No," "no," "no."]

Mr. DAWSON also expressed the hope that the gentleman from Alabama would withdraw his motion, that he might have an opportunity of asking the House to take up the amendments of the Senate to the homestead bill.

Mr. HOUSTON declined to withdraw his motion; when the question was taken, and it was agreed to.

The House accordingly went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, in the chair, and proceeded to consider the amendments of the Senate (one hundred and eighty-nine in number) to the bill making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of Government for the year ending the 30th of June, 1855.

The recommendation of the Committee of Ways and Means in regard to each amendment, to concur or non-concur therein, was almost invariably acquiesced in, with but little debate.

When the following amendment was read, Mr. HOUSTON stated that the Committee of Ways and Means recommended a non-concurrence therein:

"For the erection of public buildings in the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, to be expended under the direction of the Governors thereof respectively, twenty-five thousand dollars for each said Territory; and so much of the act for the establishment of said Territories as is inconsistent with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed."

Mr. PHELPS urged the necessity of the adoption of the amendment, and trusted the House would not follow the recommendation of the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. HAYEN hoped the amendment would be rejected, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee of Ways and Means. It proposed, he said, to open a door in the Nebraska act which others might wish to enter. He referred to the haste with which that measure was passed through the House, and inquired if gentlemen were sick of that act, and if so, why they did not propose to repeal so much of the Nebraska act as located the seat of government of that Territory at Fort Leavenworth, he desired to know if it would be in order to move to repeal so much of it as declared the Missouri Compromise line to be a permanent boundary.

Mr. GIDDINGS said that his opinion the Nebraska act should be repealed, and he believed the majority every member of the House concurred with him in this opinion. He believed that there were but few members of the House who did not, from the most recesses of their hearts, desire the repeal of this measure. It had left the President in a mere minority in the other side of the House, and if gentlemen on the other side of the House had any other act of Congress. They had seen the effects of the law throughout the whole land, North and South; they had seen its effects in this hall, in the Senate chamber, and in the Cabinet; and had they not seen

enough of it to convince every man that it should not be stricken from the statute book? As the measure was now rapidly drawing to a close, it struck him that the proper course would be to repeal the Nebraska act at once, and not attempt to get rid of it by degrees, as the Senate amendment proposed. If they did not repeal the act now, the people would before the assembling of the next Congress, and would be able to express their opinion in this body to the grave than any other. (Laughter.)

Mr. McMULLEN understood the gentleman from Ohio to say that he doubted very much whether there was a member upon this floor who did not regret the passage of the Nebraska bill. Did the member believe that he had said? Could he believe it?

Mr. GIDDINGS. Do you doubt it?

Mr. McMULLEN. In sporting with the character of the American Congress for the last thirty years, I do not utter any such declaration. No one knows better than the member that there is not a gentleman on this floor who desires the repeal of that act, unless, like the gentleman from Ohio, he is an abolitionist. I had thought I would not engage in a discussion with the member from Ohio who took the ground that he would vote to repeal it unless he was a freesoiler or an abolitionist. There was such a man here he would like him to stand up and show himself, so that he might be looked upon as a kind of sign-board.

Mr. MORGAN here stood up amid roars of laughter.

Mr. McMULLEN. I would advise the gentleman from New York to get upon his marrow-bones and ask God's forgiveness.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. Giddings, and it was rejected: Ayes 62, nays 77.

The amendment of the Senate was then non-concurred in.

Without disposing of all the amendments the Committee rose.

DESTRUCTION OF GREYTOWN.

During the sitting of the committee a message was received from the President of the United States, transmitting, in answer to the resolution of the House of the 28th instant, requesting information in regard to the destruction of San Juan de Nicaragua, reports from the Secretary of State and of the Navy, with accompanying documents.

On motion of Mr. BAILY, of Virginia, the message and accompanying papers were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COBB moved a suspension of the rules to enable him to call for the Committee on Public Lands, and a bill granting to the State of Alabama public lands, in alternate sections, to aid in the construction of railroads from Mobile to Girard; from Selma to or near Gunter's Landing; with branches from or near Gadsden, through Wilks and Chattahoochee Valleys, to the Eastern State line of Alabama; from Memphis, Tennessee, a point intersecting the Nashville, Chattanooga and Charleston railroad at or near Stephenson, Alabama; from Beard's Bluff, via Elyton and Tusculum, to some point on the Mobile and Ohio railroad; and from Montgomery to the northern State line of Alabama, via Decatur and Athens, in said State.

Ending which the House adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock A. M.

IN SENATE.

[Our report of last evening's proceedings left the Senate still in session on the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill. The sitting did not continue long, however, after the Report was left on the table. The debate thereon was brought to a close at half-past 11 o'clock, when it was discovered that the want of a quorum prevented a vote upon the question of striking out the appropriation for the Louisville and Portland Canal, and thereupon the Senate adjourned till this morning.]

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

Mr. MASON submitted the following, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the President be requested to inform the Senate, if in his opinion it be not incompatible with the public interest, whether any thing has arisen since the date of his message to the House of Representatives of the 15th March last, concerning our relations with the Government of Spain, which, in his opinion, may dispense with the suggestions therein contained touching the propriety of "provisional measures" by Congress to meet any exigency that may arise in the recess of Congress affecting those relations.

Mr. JAMES, from the Committee on Patents, reported a digest and index of patents which have been extended or renewed by acts of Congress, with reference to the act in each case, which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. NORRIS, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted a report, accompanied by a bill for the relief of Wm. B. Kibbey.

On motion of Mr. BRIGHT, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill for taking the charge of the Louisville and Portland Canal, and to prevent the same from falling into decay.

On motion of Mr. HUNTER, the Senate proceeded to consider House bill for the relief of Charles Steenrod; and the bill was passed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. HOUSTON then, in compliance with the notice given yesterday, rose and addressed the Senate for near an hour and a half in defence of his political and personal character, which had been assailed in a work now in the Library of Congress, written by Thomas Jefferson Green.

RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

Mr. BENJAMIN moved to proceed to the unfinished business, being the river and harbor bill. Agreed to.

All the amendments made in Committee of the Whole were concurred in, the votes taken by yeas and nays in each case.

Several of the amendments defeated in committee were again pressed in the Senate.

Mr. RUSK renewed his amendment appropriating \$44,000 for the improvement of Brasos river, in Texas; which was agreed to.

Mr. BROWN renewed his amendment authorizing the Secretary of War to contract for the purchase of Grant's Pass, near the mouth of the harbor of Mobile, and report the same at the next session of Congress for its approval; and it was decided in the affirmative by a vote of 24 yeas and 19 nays.

Mr. BENJAMIN moved to strike out the appropriation for the improvement of the Appomattox river below Petersburg, Virginia; which motion was defeated by a vote of 18 yeas and 22 nays.

Motions made by Mr. BENJAMIN to strike out the appropriation for the improvement of the harbor at Dubuque, in Iowa; and for the improvement of Taunton river, Massachusetts, were severally negatived.

Mr. SLIDELL moved to strike out the appropriation for Florida; which was also defeated on a call of the yeas and nays: Yeas 18, nays 20.

There was now near three o'clock, when, on the question of ordering the bill to be read a third time, the yeas and nays having been demanded, it was decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Bell, Benjamin, Cass, Chase, Cooper, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Fessenden, Fish, Foot, Gillette, Hamilton, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Jones of Tennessee, Mallory, Morton, Pearce, Pratt, Rockwell, Sebastian, Seward, Slidell, Stuart, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Thompson of New Jersey, Wade, and Walker—31.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Atchison, Bayard, Brown, Clay, Dawson, Douglas, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Fremont, Gales, Gillette, Hamilton, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Jones of Tennessee, Mallory, Morton, Pearce, Pratt, Rockwell, Sebastian, Seward, Slidell, Stuart, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Thompson of New Jersey, Wade, and Walker—31.

The bill has gone to the House with the following amendments:

The item for continuing the improvement of the Des Moines Rapids in the Mississippi river was increased from \$18,000 to one hundred thousand dollars.

The second amendment was to add to the item for reopening the Albemarle Sound, "and this sum as well as the former appropriation shall be used," &c.

The third amendment in an appropriation of \$44,000 for the improvement of the Brasos river, in the State of Texas.

The fourth is for the survey of San Pedro, Santa Barbara, Monterey, San Francisco, Humboldt, and Trinity, in the State of California, and the rivers Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Colorado, and the harbor of Apalaque, Florida, \$50,000; for a survey of a breakwater at Grace's Point, Block Island, \$50,000.

The following section is added:

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of War be and he is hereby authorized to contract with the proper parties for the purchase of the Patent Office building, and the harbor of Mobile harbor, on the mail route from New Orleans to Mobile, and that he report said contract to Congress at its next session for approval.

There were one or two other amendments, but unimportant.

On motion of Mr. JONES, of Iowa, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill from the House of Representatives for the relief of Charlotte Westcott; and the bill was read the third time and passed.

Mr. BRIGHT moved that the Senate insist on their demand for the amendment to the bill for the extension of the Alexandria and Washington Railroad into the District of Columbia, and agree to a committee of conference; which was agreed to.

Pending which the House adjourned.

Mr. MASON moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive business; which motion was agreed to; but, pending the time of clearing the galleries, the following reports were made, presumed to be by unanimous consent:

Mr. FISH presented the following memorial from American citizens carrying on business with San Juan, which was referred to the Committee of Claims:

"We, the undersigned American citizens, carrying on business with San Juan del Norte, respectfully represent that, on the 13th of July, 1853, the town of San Juan del Norte, situated on the coast of the United States of war Cyane, under the command of Capt. Hollins. We ask of your body to indemnify us for the losses we have sustained."

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. SLIDELL, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the memorial of Joseph M. Hernandez in behalf of the claimants under the ninth article of the treaty of 1819 with Spain, and that it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary; which was agreed to.

Mr. WELLS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred House bill for the relief of Wm. H. Weirick, reported it back without amendment, and asked its immediate consideration; and the bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. PETTIT, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, submitted several reports in the cases of Wm. Gitt and of Martin Fenwick.

Mr. SEWARD, from the Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the bill to amend the "act requiring the foreign regulations of commerce to be annually laid before Congress," reported back the same without amendment, and recommended its passage.

Mr. WELLS, from the same committee, to which was referred the memorial of Elijah D. Brigham, reported a bill to change the name of the American-built brig Glamorgan to that of "Wizard," and asked its immediate consideration.

Mr. S. stated that this was an American-built vessel that had been captured, condemned, and sold for participation in the slave trade. The purchaser, with a view to get rid of the painful association connected with so heinous a traffic, wished her former name changed.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. BUTLER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the resolution of the Senate to inquire into and report on the right of the Hon. James V. Wilson to a seat in the Senate, reported by resolution that the Senator was not entitled to a seat.

On motion of Mr. CLAYTON, the report was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMSON, of New Jersey, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the memorial of Wm. Black; which was agreed to.

Mr. FISH, from the select committee to which the subject was referred, submitted an elaborate report, accompanied by a bill for the better preservation of life and health on board of mail steamships, and he hoped the amendment as amended would not be agreed to.

The question was then taken on agreeing to the amendment as amended, and it was decided in the negative: Yeas 7, nays 28.

Several other amendments were agreed to—one giving the sailing privileges to the serving Vice President, and to all future serving Vice Presidents, and another giving to Cranston Laurie, a clerk in the General Post Office, the pay for the labor of two clerks, to which it was said he alone was competent.

Other amendments led to long debate. The bill, at half-past 4 o'clock P. M., was read a third time and passed.

A resolution was adopted fixing the hour of meeting at ten o'clock.

And the 17th joint rule was suspended so as to allow the appropriation bills and one or two others to be exempted from its operation, and passed 4 o'clock P. M., proceeded to the consideration of Executive business.

The Senate remained in Executive session until a late hour, when the doors were opened, and after the passage of some private bills, and an attempt to take up others, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at ten o'clock.

Mr. PERKINS, of Louisiana, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a bill to remodel the diplomatic and consular system of the United States; which was read twice and committed.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, transmitting the annual report of the Board of Regents of that Institution; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. ENGLISH, the Committee on Printing was instructed to inquire into the expediency of printing twenty thousand extra copies of the said report.

On motion of Mr. HUNT, by consent, the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union was discharged from the further consideration of the bill for the relief of Jacob McClain, reported by the Committee on Private Land Claims, port of delivery at Lake Port, on Lake Pontchartrain, and for other purposes, when it was read the third time and passed.

Mr. WENTWORTH, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Commerce, reported back, with an amendment, Senate bill constituting Tusculum, in the State of Alabama, port of delivery.

The amendment was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time and passed.

Also, from the same committee, reported back Senate bills creating a collection district in Texas and New Mexico, and constituting Madison, in the State of Indiana, a port of delivery; which were read the third time and passed.

ALEXANDRIA AND WASHINGTON RAILROAD.

A message having been received from the Senate announcing that that body had disagreed to the amendment of the House to the bill authorizing the extension of the Alexandria and Washington Railroad into the District of Columbia—

On motion of Mr. McMULLEN, the House insisted on its amendment; and Messrs. McMULLEN, MAY, and KERR were appointed a committee of conference to meet a similar committee to be appointed by the Senate.

CIVIL AND DIPLOMATIC BILL.

The House then went into committee, (Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, in the chair), and resumed the consideration of the amendments of the Senate to the civil and diplomatic bill.

Most of the amendments gave rise to debate, and several of them were discussed at considerable length.

Many of the amendments were concurred in, others were non-concurred in, and some of them were agreed to in an amended form.

Without disposing of all the amendments, at a quarter past four the committee rose.

Mr. ORR, moved that the House again go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union; which motion was agreed to: Ayes 71, nays 53.

The House accordingly went into committee, and resumed the consideration of the amendments of the Senate to the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill.

Among the amendments non-concurred in were the following:

For repair and renewal of the gas-pipes through the Capitol, and fixtures necessary for the lighting of such committee-rooms therein as need it, and lighting East Capitol street, from the Capitol to Third street, \$7,000.

For continuing the work for a supply of water to the city of Washington and Georgetown, five hundred thousand dollars; which was ordered to be printed.

For continuing the work for a supply of water to the city of Washington and Georgetown, or either of them, shall appropriate and pay an amount equal to one-fourth of said sum for the same purpose, and shall agree to pay in like manner the same proportion of all future appropriations; and full power and authority are hereby given to such Corporation, or to raise, by loan or otherwise, any sum of money that may be necessary to enable them, or either of them, to make the appropriation herein required; and the said Corporations of Washington and Georgetown, and the inhabitants of said cities respectively, or the Corporation making the appropriation, and the inhabitants of such city, shall be authorized to use the surplus water which may be brought by the Washington aqueduct, after supplying the Government establishments in Washington, under such general rules and regulations as may hereafter be prescribed by Congress; and each of said Corporations shall have the right to charge and collect the cost of such city, shall be authorized to use the surplus water which may be brought by the Washington aqueduct, after supplying the Government establishments in Washington, under such general rules and regulations as may hereafter be prescribed by Congress; 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